TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Saturday
March 1st
2025

ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXXXVI

MARCH ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Tribal art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: Yup'ik amulet by Anthony JP Meyer on p. 94

MARCH ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

AUSTRALIAN CLUB

A rare form of club
Queensland, Australia
Mid 19th century
Length: 72 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

02

CHEYENNE BAG

Tobacco bag
Cheyenne or neighboring nations
Plains, USA
Late 19th century
Hide, beads, quill, tin cones
Height: 82 cm
Provenance:
Michel Zerolo, Paris
Price: 6.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
M.: +33 6 84 52 81 36
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W.: www.galerieflak.com

As noted by the Nelson Atkins Museum in Kansas, "the use of tobacco in rituals was highly developed among Plains Indian peoples. Elaborate bags, often exquisitely detailed works of art, were produced by women to serve as containers for tobacco and, among some tribes, for pipe bowls and stems as well. Together with the pipe, such bags were carried by men on important occasions as an element of formal dress."
Smoking was a means of creating harmony with the spiritual elements, with the smoke symbolizing prayer, a gift or a request for assistance from the Great Spirit.

« Before talking of holy things, we prepare ourselves by offerings. One will fill his pipe and hand it to the other who will light it and offer it to the sky and earth. They will smoke together. Then they will be ready to talk. »
Mato-Kuwapi (Chased by Bears), a Santee-Yanktoni, Sioux warrior.

03

CHOKWE SCEPTRE

Janus Sceptre
Chokwe
Angola
Early 20th century
Wood, nails
Height: 60 cm
Provenance:
Portuguese collection
Jolly collection, France
Private collection, France
Price: 2.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Guilhem Montagut
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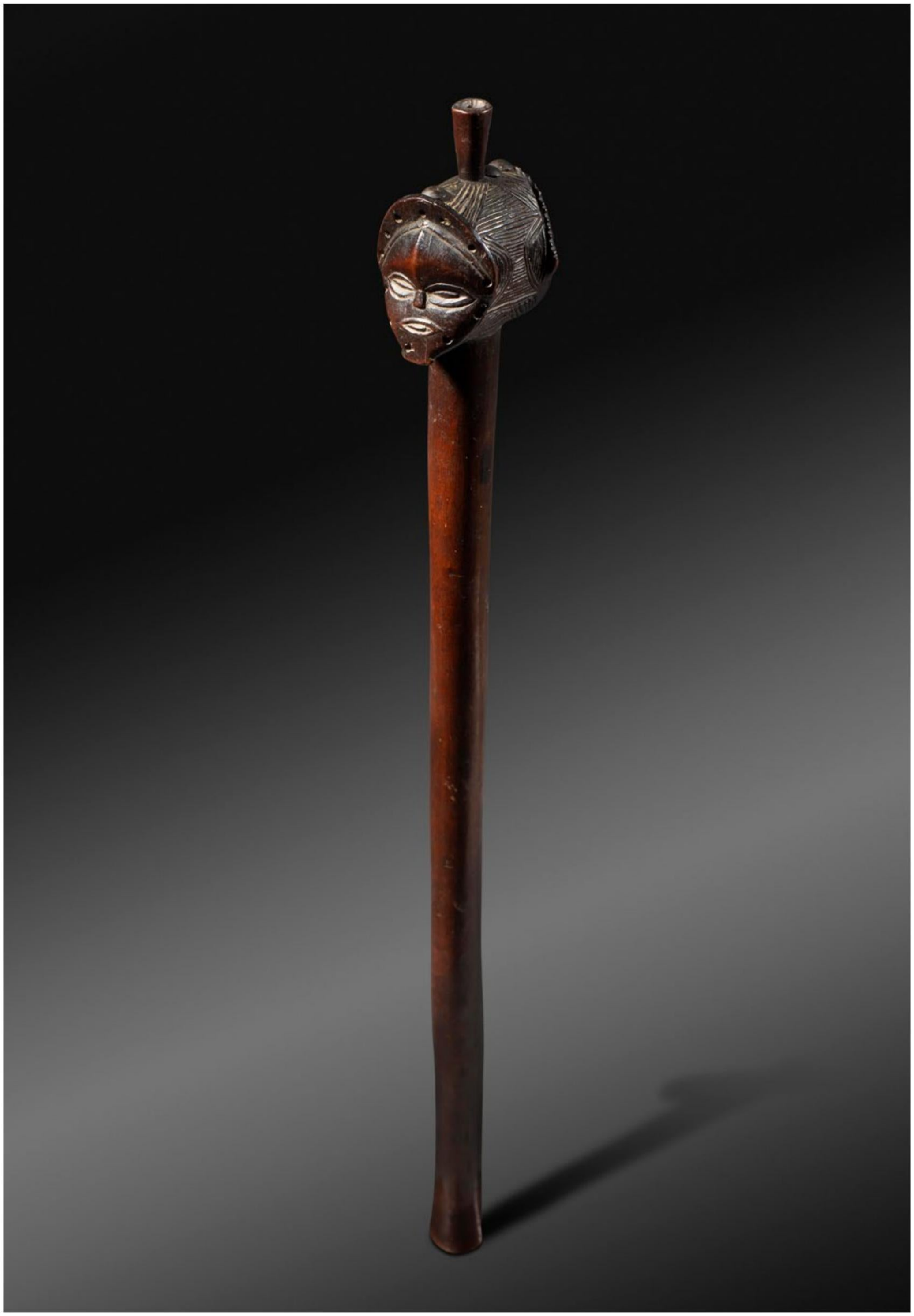

04

DJENNE SCULPTURE

Sculpture
Djenné
Inner Niger Delta
Mali
12th century – 15th century,
Thermoluminescence dating - QED Laboratoire
Terracotta
Height: 16 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Italy
Price: 2.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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05

DOGON DOOR

Small granary door
Dogon
Mali
Wood and metal
42 cm (h.) X 41 cm (l.)
Provenance:
Marie Ange Ciolkowska (50's)
Price: 1.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Renaud Vanuxem
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06

TELLEM LADDERS

Miniature ladders
Dogon/Tellem
Mali
Wood
Height: 40 and 31 cm
Provenance:
Marie Ange Ciolkowska (50's)
Price: 450 euros each

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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07

EKOI HELMET

Helmet mask detelumo
Ekoi
Cross River, Nigeria
Early 20th century
Wood, pigments and leather
Height: 41 cm
Provenance:
Yves Develon, France
Max Rouayroux collection, France.
(acquired in the 1980's)
Thence by descendance
Price: 8.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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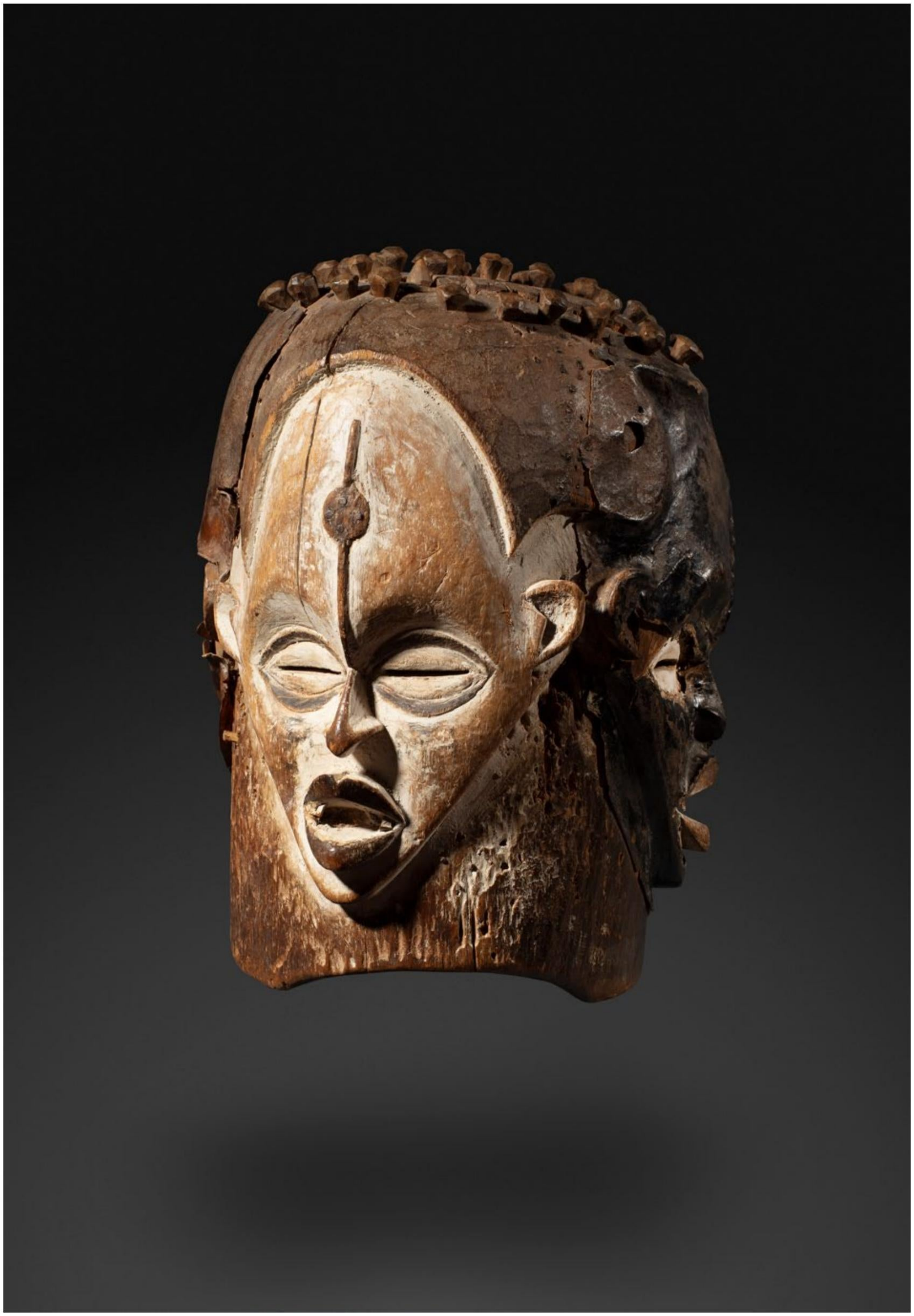

08

IGBO CURRENCY

Metal Currency
Igbo
Nigeria
Early 20th century or earlier
Copper
Height: 22 cm
TAS exclusive price: 300 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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According to the Minneapolis Institute of Art "In the late 1400s, the Portuguese began trading with Igbo peoples in southeastern Nigeria—buying at first primarily ivory and pepper, and later also humans. The Portuguese bartered for goods with copper, which the Igbo accumulated and transformed over the centuries. The so-called bracelet currency seen here is a heritage of that tradition. Seventeen coils make up a metal spring, which has flat circles at its extremities. Some Igbo currencies have more or fewer coils, varying the amount of metal and thus the currency's value."

09

KACHINA DOLL

Wakas Katsina – Cow Katsina doll
Hopi
Arizona, USA
Circa 1940s
Carved wood (cottonwood root), pigments and feathers
Height: 25,5 cm
Provenance:
Alan Kessler, USA
Private collection, USA
Price: 7.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
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Katsina (or Kachina) dolls represent spirits or deities from the pantheon of the Pueblo peoples in the American Southwest. Traditionally given to children, these carved figures served an educational purpose.
This figure, known as Wakas, represents the Cow Katsina. Like many animal spirits, this Katsina participates in dances on the ceremonial plaza to promote the health and growth of the herds. It also appears in nighttime ceremonies within the kiva, a subterranean ritual chamber. As a messenger of the Rain Gods, Wakas underscores the vital role of the animal kingdom in sustaining life.
This carved figure stands out for the superb twisting of its body, creating the impression that the character is dancing.

10

KANAK CLUB

Porowa ra maru "bird head" club
Kanak
New Caledonia
Late 19th century
Carved wood
Height: 62,5 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, France
Renaud Vanuxem, acquired from the above
Price: 4.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York states that the distinctively shaped porowa ra maru, or "bird head" clubs of New Caledonia were prestigious objects created for use by chiefs. The clubs symbolized wealth and high rank, and on some occasions served as gifts during ceremonial exchanges.
The tops of these clubs are carved in a form reminiscent of stylized bird heads, typically characterized—as seen here—by long, pointed beaks. However, since none of New Caledonia's indigenous birds possess such beaks, some scholars suggest that the design may instead represent a sea turtle's head with its projecting mouth.

11

KORWAR FIGURE

Korwar
Geelvink Bay (present-day Cenderawasih Bay), Papua New Guinea
Early 20th century
Wood
The seated Korwar is holding a shield in front of him, with a dark brown soft gloss patina
Height:. 34 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, the Netherlands (since the early 20th century)
Thence by descent
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

Zebregs&Röell
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dickie@zebregsroell.com
W.: www.zebregsroell.com

12

KUYU HEAD

Ritual head
Kuyu
D.R of the Congo
Wood and pigments
Height: 39 cm
Provenance:
Old french colonial collection
Price: 2.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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13

LOBI BRACELET

Bracelet
Lobi
Burkina Faso
19th century - early 20th century
Copper alloy and iron
Diam.: 7,5 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, United Kingdom
(acquired by descendance)
Price: 1.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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W.: www.davidserra.es

14

LUBA-SHANKADI NECKREST

Neckrest (headrest)
Luba-Shankadi, Musamo
Sungu-Monga Village, Congo
Kinshasa/Southeastern Congo,
Upper Lomami, D.R. of the Congo
Wood, fiber, glass white and blue
tubular beads
Height: 15,1 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Boston (By
Decent)
Daniel Biebuyck, USA. inv.145a
Collected in situ by Biebuyck in 1956
in Sungu-Monga village
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Mark Eglinton
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IG: @markeglintontribalart

15

MAORI TREASURE BOX

A Finely Carved Polynesian Feather 'Treasure Box' and Cover
Maori
New Zealand
Early 19th century
Superb colour and patina. Wood, haliotis (abalone) shell
14 cm (h.) x 51 cm (w.) x 18,5 cm (d.)
Provenance :
Alex Manoogian, USA (founder of Masco Corporation)
Private French collection
Alain Schoffel, Paris until 1994
Private French collection
Yann Ferrandin
Private UK collection
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Finch & Co
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T.: +44 (0)7768 236921
W.: www.finch-and-co.co.uk

This finely carved wood 'treasure box' would have belonged to an important Maori elder or chief to keep safe their precious objects, Hei Tiki's (nephrite pendants) feathers (often from the 'huia' bird and other artefacts which were precious to the chief, ancestors and tribe. Carved from a native hard wood, the box has terminals to each end with 'god-tiki' heads, inlaid with haliotis (abalone) shell.
A masterpiece of Maori carving with a beautiful deep rich patina.

16

OTTOMAN SHIELD

Shield
Ottoman
Turkey
18th century
Wood, metal and fiber
Diam.: 27 cm
Price: 1.500 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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17

OWO BELL

Bell, musical instrument
Owo
Nigeria
Metal, copper alloy (bronze, brass)
Diam.: 18 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Manchester
Charnok Richard Antique market,
Chorley, UK
Price

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Mark Eglinton
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18

PORPORA MASK

Mask
Adjirab people
Porpora River Region, Low Sepik Region, PNG, Melanesia
Pig skull frontal bone, plant fibers, and cassowary feathers, with a fine patina of age and use
Height: 23 cm excluding feathers
Provenance:
Henri Descazeaux. Subsequently by descent and is part of a set of African, Oceanic and American art objects acquired by Mr. Descazeaux from Parisian tribal art galleries in the 1950s/60s (Ratton, Leloup...), but also from private individuals, including André Fourquet, a friend of the family. Subsequently misidentified as coming from Timor and offered for sale as such (see Osenat - Les Curiosités De Breteuil, 22 May 2024, lot 191)
Collected in the field by Pierre J. Langlois (1927-2015) and Marcel Évrard (1920-2009) in 1959-60.
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
T.: +33 (0) 6 80 10 80 22
E.: ajpmeyer@gmail.com
W. : www.meyeroceanic.art

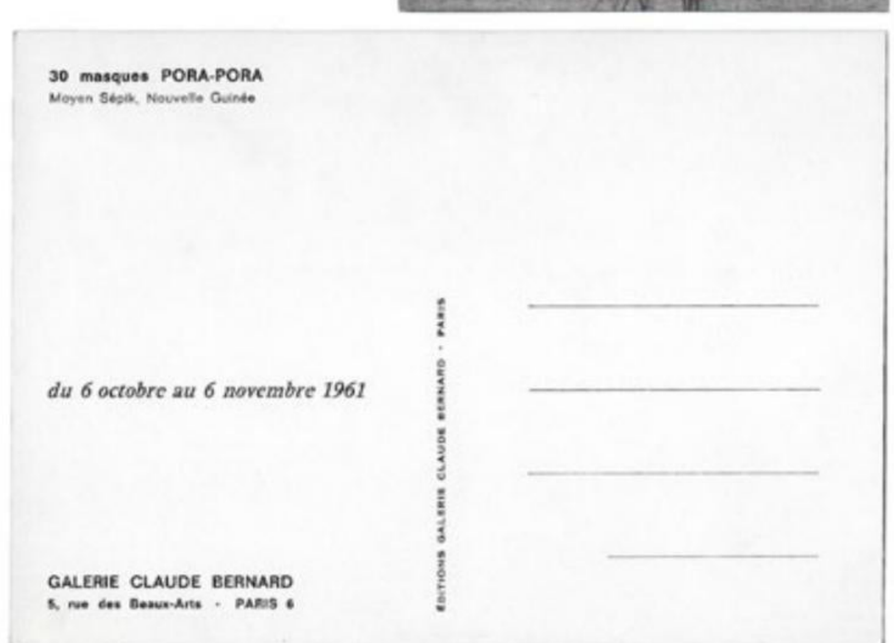
A small mask, characteristic of the corpus of disconcerting objects brought back by Pierre Langlois and Marcel Evrard during their trip on the Porapora River in 1959. This is a complete specimen in its construction and corresponds perfectly to the majority of masks of this typology which are made with the frontal section of a pig's skull.

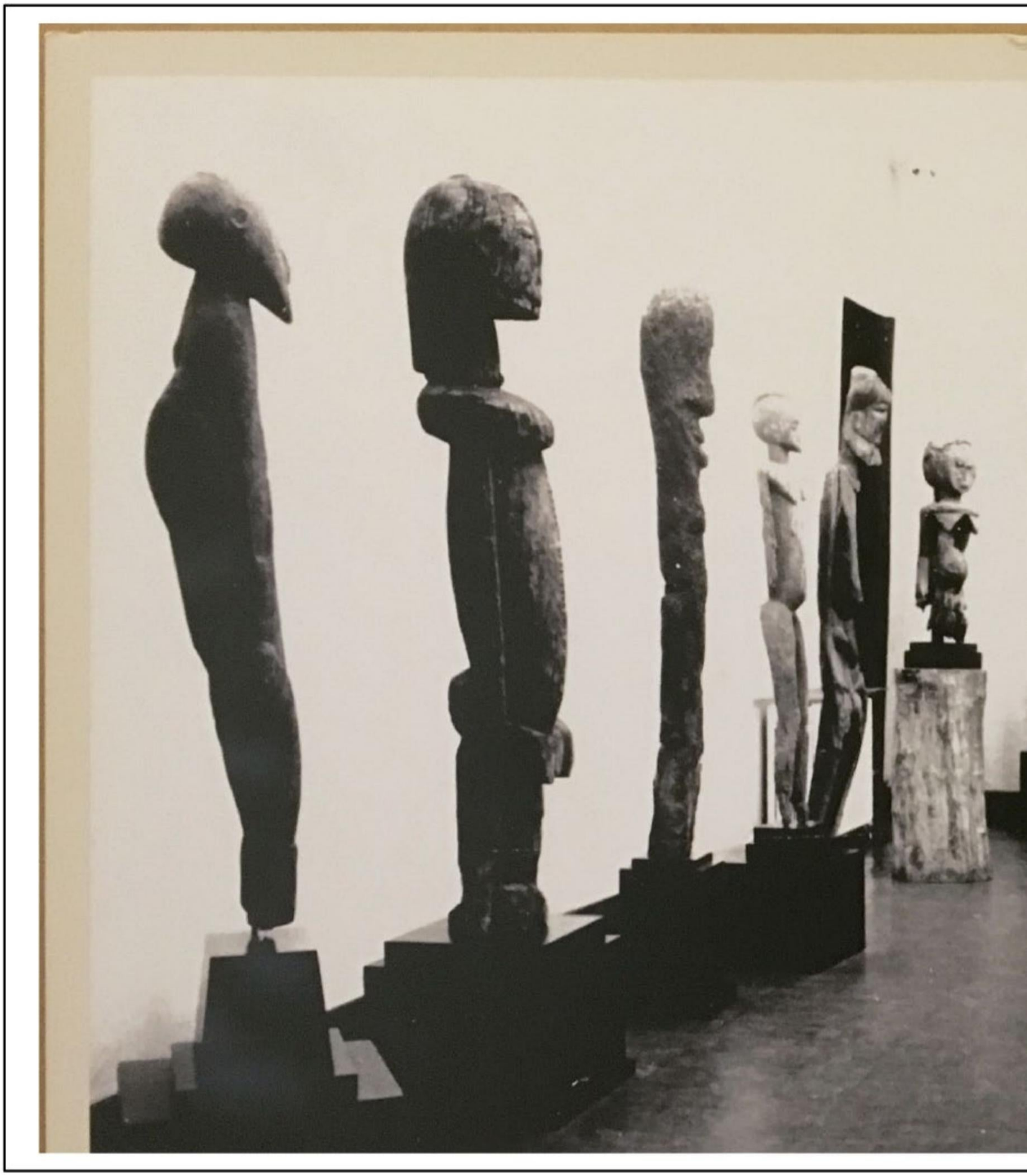
The function and use of this type of mask remains obscure and their "raison d'être", although sometimes compared to the Maro reliquary figures of the area, is not yet clearly established.

More information is available on the gallery website

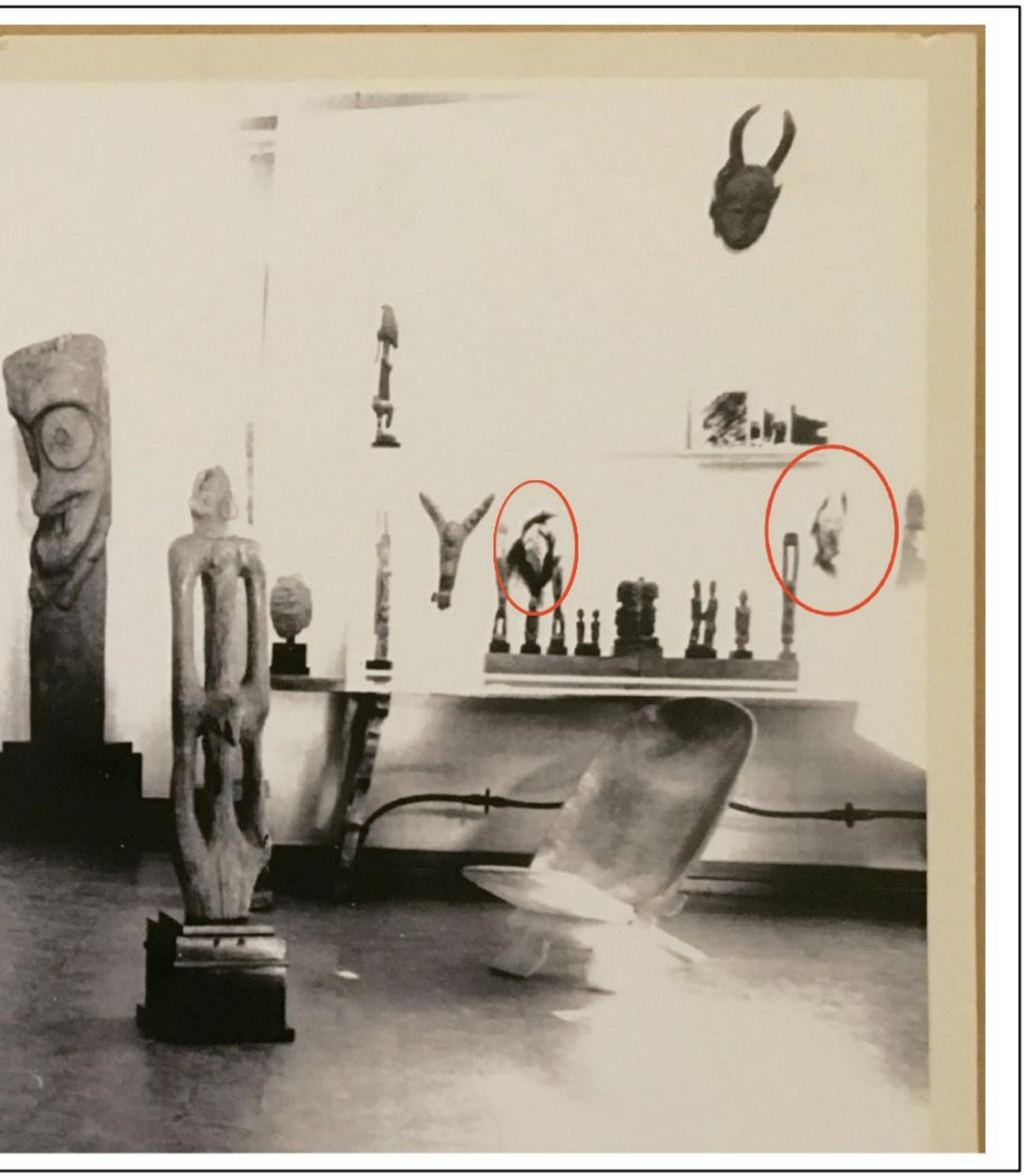
Post card invitation for the exhibition of
30 Masks PORA-PORA
field collected by
Pierre Langlois & Marcel Evrard
on their joint trip to New Guinea
in 1959/1960

Invitation sous forme de carte postale
pour l'exposition
30 Masques PORA-PORA
collecté sur le terrain par
Pierre Langlois et Marcel Evrard
lors de leur voyage commun en
Nouvelle-Guinée en 1959/1960


30 masques PORA-PORA
Moyen Sépik, Nouvelle Guinée
du 6 octobre au 6 novembre 1961
GALERIE CLAUDE BERNARD
5, rue des Beaux-Arts · PARIS 6
ÉDITIONS GALERIE CLAUDE BERNARD · PARIS



Galerie Pierre Loeb (Galerie Pierre), 2



rue des Beaux-Arts, Paris 75006, 1962

19

PUNUK RECLINING FIGURE

Figure
Punuk
Saint Lawrence or Punuk Islands,
Bering Strait, Alaska
500 to 900 AD
Mineralized walrus tusk (Odobenus rosmarus divergens) with a superb patina of age and use
5,5 cm x 2,2 cm
Provenance:
ALASKA ON MADISON, New York
Daniel and Martha Albrecht,
Scottsdale, Arizona
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Anthony J.P. Meyer
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An extremely rare reclining figure carved with its head and torso tilted back. The lower section of the body is stylized to form a flattish, oval, beavertail-like form. The face is highly expressive with the eyes and mouth suggested by three oval depressions anchored by the pointed nose.

The shape of this effigy is most unusual and only few are known. Their function remains to be discerned, but it can be surmised that the oval flattened area was inserted into a lodging or tightly bound to some larger object possible a harpoon for which this figure could be a finger rest or it is a figure meant to be inserted into a minute model kayak or possibly a central ornament from a hunting hat or visor.

More information is available on the gallery website

20

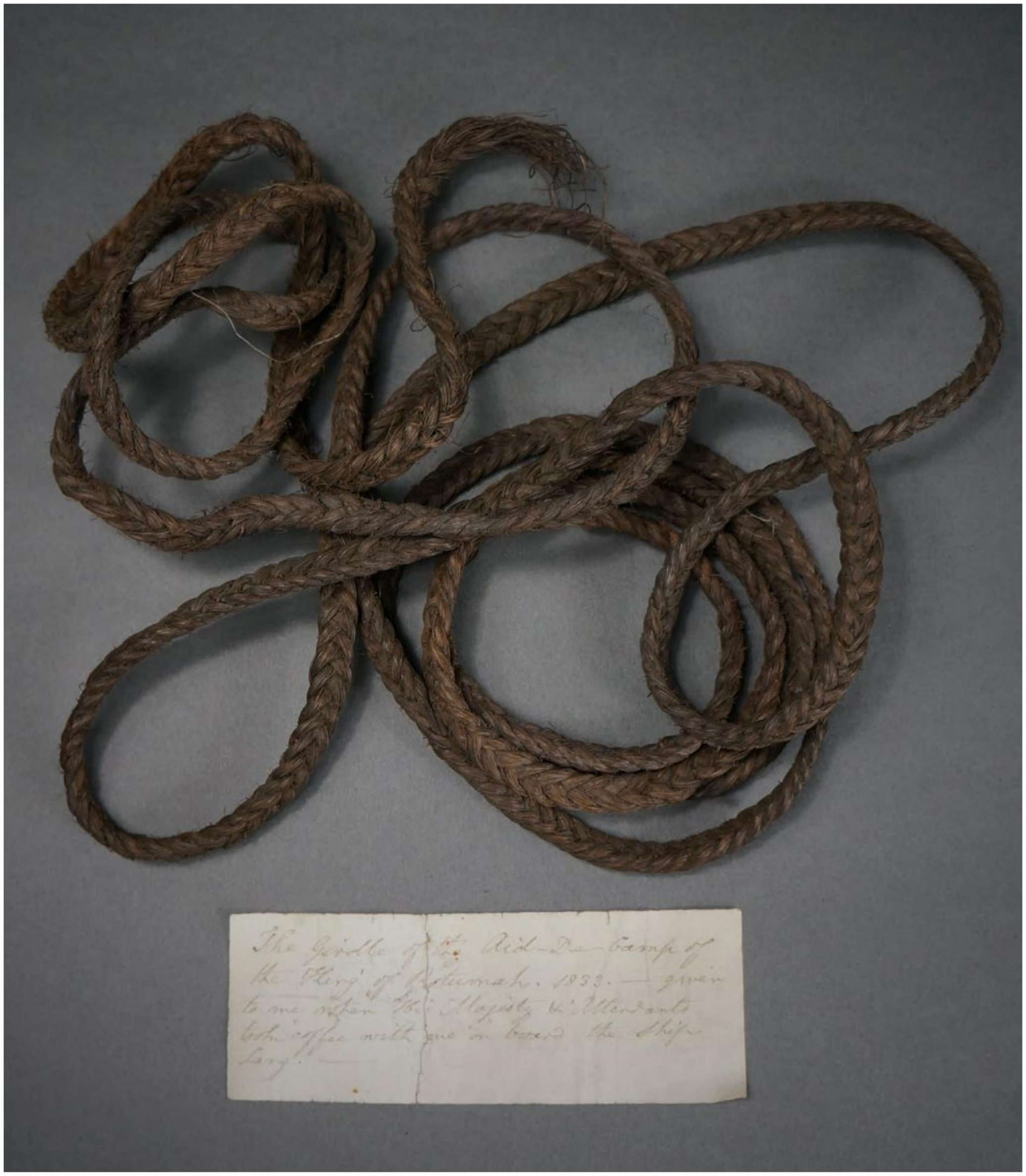
ROTUMAH GIRDLE

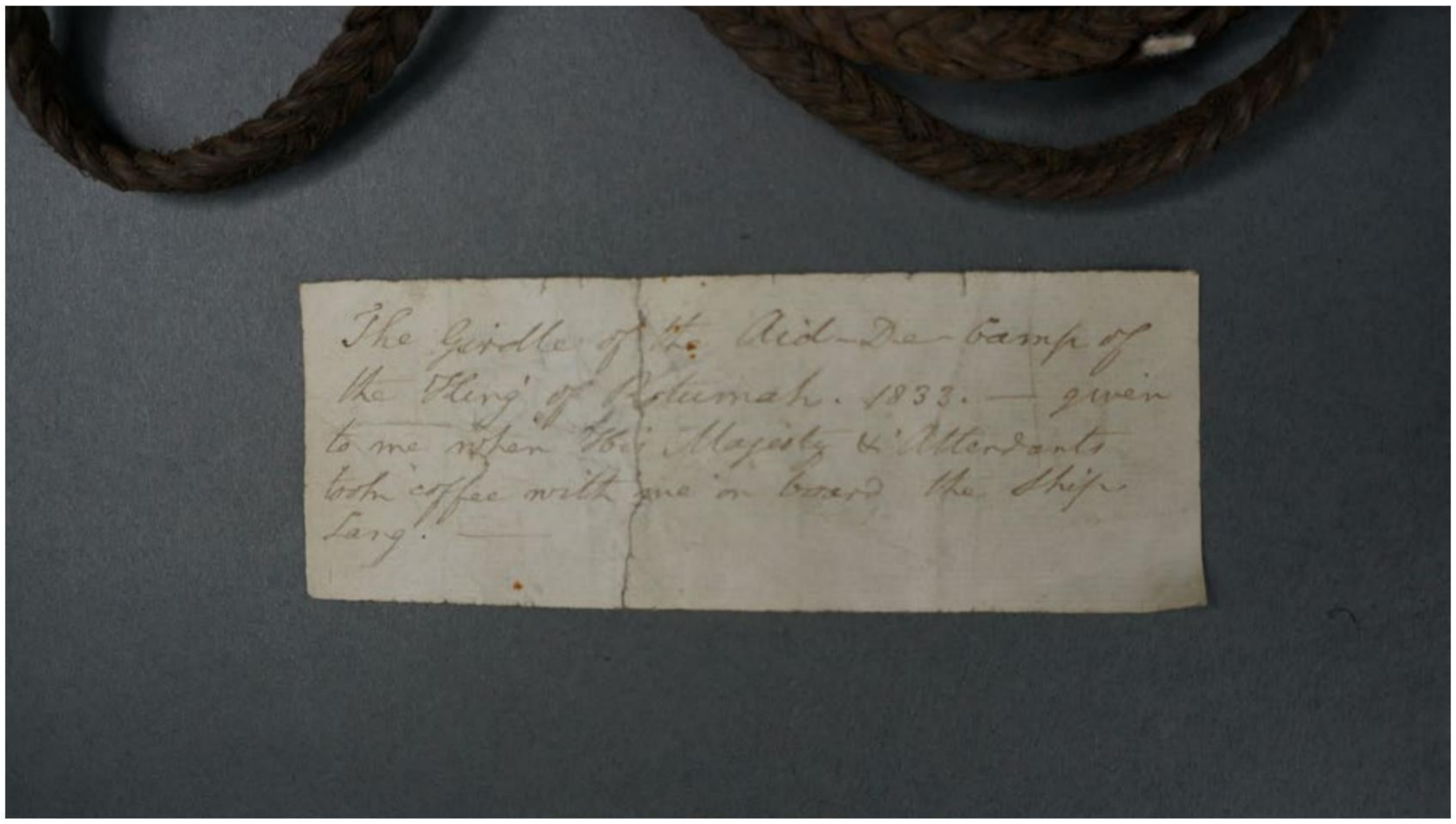
Historic object
Rotumah
Fiji
Plaited coconut fibre
Length: 300 cm
Provenance:
Captain James Muddle
Price

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

A historic object with old label. The label reads " The girdle of the aid-de camp of the king of Rotumah. 1833 – given to me when his Majesty and attendants took coffee with me on board the ship lang?."


The Girdle of the Aid-de-Camp of
the King of Rotumah. 1833. — given
to me when the Majesty & Attendants
took coffee with me on board the Ship
Lang.


The Girdle of the Aid-De-Camp of
the King of Rotumah. 1833. — given
to me when His Majesty & Attendants
both coffee with me in board the Ship
Lang. —

21

SENUFO/LIGBI MASK

Anthropozoomorphic face mask
Senufo/Ligbi
Ivory Coast
Wood and pigments (Rekitt's Blue)
29 cm (h.) x 18 cm (w) x 8 cm (diam.)
Provenance:
Simon Escarré (1909-1999), Korhogo, Ivory Coast/France (LaBaule-Cannes, France)
Private collection, South of France
Private collection, USA
Titus & GvR family, Brussels, Belgium
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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IG: @markeglintontribalart

22

SONGYE FIGURE

Power figure
Songye
D.R. of the Congo
19th century
Wood, nail, fibers
Height: 10,5 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, France
Private collection, Belgium
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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23

YORUBA MASK

A crusty *Epa* mask
Yoruba
Nigeria
Early 20th century
There is evidence of the holes having once held hair decoration
40 cm x 24 cm
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
E.: adam@adamprout.com
W.: www.adamprout.com

During the Epa masquerade, the Yoruba people of Nigeria use ceremonial masks known as *Epa* masks. Typically, the masks feature carvings of mothers, hunters, priests, farmers, and kings.They serve to recognize significant roles in the community and to remember ancestors who once filled those roles. Epa masks are kept in shrines where they are the subject of prayers and libations from the elders when not being used performances.

24

YUP'IK AMULET

Shaman's amulet
Yup'ik (Eskimo)
Cape Vancouver, Alaska, USA
18th/19th century
Walrus tusk (Odobenus rosmarus divergens) and glass trade-bead.
Height: 7,3 cm
Provenance:
USN Admiral Jefferson F. Moser (1848-1934) as commander of the USS Albatross between October 12, 1897, and April 26, 1898, during a study on the causes of Alaskan salmon depletion for the U.S. Fish Commission along the west coast from California to Alaska
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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An exceptionally fine shaman's amulet or iinruq (iinrut), representing a half figure with extensive tattoos on both the front and rear of the torso. The smiling face is tattooed at the edges of the eyes and the mouth is decorated with an inset, blue, glass labret. The arms and digitized hands are carved in relief and presented with the hands holding the lower belly under the belly button. The carving of the figure is remarkable with both the face and body showing the most subtle modeling.

Small half figures like this extremely fine example were used by shaman as amulets in ritual circumstances. It is recorded that they were often considered to be the « guardians of the lamp » which is of course the most important object in the dwelling, providing life sustaining heat and light. The figures represent protective spirits and were « fed » with food and water. The presence of labrets on the chin indicates that this is a male iinruq.
See another collected by E. W. Nelson, 1882, in the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution N°48709. There is a very similar figure in the collection of the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin (inv. N° IVA4531), illustrated in Fienup-Riorden, Ann : YUP'IK Elders at the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin – Fieldwork turned on its head, University of Wisconsin Press, Seattle & London, 2005, fig. 8.15, p. 190.
More information is available on the gallery website

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